

Full Spectrum Combat Aviation Brigade

What is it?

The Full Spectrum Combat Aviation Brigade (FS CAB) is a modular, standardized CAB optimized to deliver maximum aviation capabilities in the most timely and flexible manner.

What has Army Aviation done?

At the direction of the Army Chief of Staff, the Army G3 tasked the U.S. Army Aviation Center (USAACE) in 2009 to form a task force to study Army Aviation's modernization strategy. Aviation Study II, an assessment of Army Aviation across Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTML-PF) analysis, resulted from the task force's internal assessment. It also includes the integration of lessons learned from recent operations, and informed by potential emerging missions and changing threats. Aviation Study II identified the need to restructure and standardize Army Aviation Warfighting units into FS CABs, both active and reserve components, while retaining the flexibility of the modular design ensuring the aviation units are modular, capable, lethal, tailorable and sustainable. In late 2009, Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) proposed a new "Full Spectrum" CAB design, based on the Army's medium CAB design, which balances attack and reconnaissance capabilities. The FS CAB design teams the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the CAB's Armed Reconnaissance Squadron (ARS) to provide improved surveillance and reconnaissance by taking advantage of the UAS's increased endurance to free OH-58Ds for higher priority missions. The Army's Vice Chief of Staff (VCSA) approved the FS CAB design concept Jan. 4, 2010.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

The Army is reviewing the design of the CAB to optimize the future aviation force in support of Army Forces Generation (ARFORGEN) for the Joint fight. The Army staff expects to provide a proposal to Army leadership by May 2010. This recommendation will include a proposal for a threshold capability by converting one CAB to a new design before FY12. The Army staff, in coordination with TRADOC, USAACE and the Aviation Enterprise, is conducting a detailed analysis of TRADOC's proposed Full Spectrum CAB design and studying courses of action for converting an appropriate number of Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC) CABs to the Full Spectrum design. The final decision will be based on an analysis of potential future requirements and resources available in future years.

The FS CAB uses current organizational building blocks to provide full-spectrum capability. It also allows CAB commanders to quickly task organize for combat and adds manned / unmanned operations (MUM-O) capability to enhance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations.

The FS CAB will be designed around:

- One General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB, 8xUH60; 12xCH-47, 15xHH-60)
- One Assault Battalion (ASLT; three companies / 10xUH-60)
- One Attack Battalion (ATK; three companies / 8xAH64D)

- One Attack Reconnaissance Squadron (three Air Cavalry Troops / 7xOH-58D; two UAS platoons / 4xRQ-7)
- One Aviation Support Battalion (ASB)

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

The modular design of the FS CAB will enable task organization while optimizing Army Aviation capabilities for specific mission of specified duration. It will complete the effort to standardize the CAB design across the Army Aviation branch in order to deliver maximum aviation capability in the most timely and flexible manner. The FS CAB is doctrinally sound. It delivers the combat, combat support and combat service support to "Enable Steady State" operations required across the full spectrum of conflict. It delivers combat power while maximizing efficiencies in training, maintenance and support across army Aviation.

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